

ABSTRACT

Disclosed are a novel seven-pass transmembrane receptor protein found in immature dendritic cells and a DNA encoding the same. Further, disclosed are a replicable recombinant DNA which comprises a replicable expression vector and, operably inserted therein, the above-mentioned DNA; a cell of a microorganism or cell culture (transformant), which is transformed with the above-mentioned replicable recombinant DNA; a seven-pass transmembrane receptor protein which is produced on the cell surface of the above-mentioned transformant; a method for screening a ligand which binds to the above-mentioned seven-pass transmembrane receptor protein, and a method for screening a substance which inhibits the ligand from binding to the seven-pass transmembrane receptor protein; and an antibody which binds to the above-mentioned seven-pass transmembrane receptor protein. The present invention also discloses a method for the diagnosis of an inflammatory disease, such as rheumatism, which comprises determining the amount of the seven-pass transmembrane receptor protein expressed in human leukocytes.

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